

Torrance's Secret Agony

The City of Torrance goes blithely on, hanging more traffic lights high over the street as if they were created for airplanes while at the same time ignoring an issue acutely affecting the comfort of the pedestrian.

We still have no public rest rooms.

The motorist has it made; he can pull in and order a buck's worth of gas and have the windshield cleaned while, unabashed, he makes use of the retiring room.

But scores awaiting busses—and others who have miscalculated the duration of their business downtown—long to retire. Through what improvidence they were made acquainted with the discomforts of a prolonged tour is of little consequence. The condition is none the less disagreeable.

In a panic, or similar excruciating emergency, a gas station or supermarket usually will provide a haven. But the victim's discomfort then is compounded by the uneasiness of asking for something free. Or he may sneak in, feeling like a thief in the night.

The cocktail lounge is positive asylum, except one feels obliged to buy at least one beer as a token of gratitude, in which event nothing has been gained.

At a City Council session, Councilman Nick Drae put it picturesquely, if not euphemistically, when he observed "We can't expect people to go to the bathroom beside a tree . . ."

Much heat has been put on the council to provide at least some of the comforts of home at the Torrance Blvd. bus stop where residents spend a great part of their lives awaiting transportation.

Nothing has been done.

There remain parking lots on Torrance Blvd. at El Prado; these go largely unused and amply would accommodate a rest-room facility.

Letters

Carreiro Explains

EDITOR THE PRESS:
The Torrance Young Democrats sharing a common concern with many prominent national leaders, have sponsored a citizens' committee to conduct an inquiry into the educational philosophy and practice in Torrance.

The issue is now in danger of becoming obscure through an attack on motives.

I cannot in all honesty, abide by the dictum that my admitted political ambition must now force the citizens of this community to ignore their responsibility which concerns the minds of their children and which can and should only be resolved in the hamlets of Jefferson and not in the strong central government of Hamilton.

We believe that experts can create and direct a program. We are also democrats (small "d") and believe that only the people can rule and be the judge of the product presented them by the experts.

We believe that to have raised an issue is the correct practice and duty of any political action group and aspirant to elective office. We agree that politicians never must attempt to legislate an educational philosophy. There can be no question, however, that it is the duty of all real political leadership to spur the evaluation of such philosophy by the people and to make known the ultimate decision and command to the experts.

We believe that when a public institution such as a school board becomes so powerful as to safely disregard the criticism of citizens be they a majority or minority it is correct and necessary that another institution, such as a city council, become the means through which the criticism takes a tangible form and finds expression.

If to believe that somewhere "expediency" must end and "principle" prevail is rebellious, then let the charge stand on proud shoulders. We will continue in our refusal to join any organized political association that fails to practice this basic tenet in our Democratic heritage.

"If God had intended that leaders should be the ultimate judges, the rest of us would have been born without minds."

HENRY RICHARD CARREIRO
Torrance Young Democrats.

Nurses' Commencement Rites Scheduled Today at Harbor College

Eighteen graduates of the vocational nursing program at Harbor College and Harbor General Hospital will attend commencement exercises today 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly of God Church, 24919 South Avalon Blvd., Wilmington.

Other participants in the commencement exercises will be Frances Scott, director of nursing at Harbor General Hospital; John Penner, hospital chaplain; Elsie Rice, Obdulia Martinez, Bonnie Greene, Nellie Martinis, and Linda Galbreath. A reception will follow the ceremonies. Members of the graduating class are Carolina Botello, Dorothy Cook, Anna Mae Edwards, Linda Galbreath, Lillian Gobert, Martha Guzman, Ruth Lord, Pearl Kramer, Anastacia Kuckowicz, Shirley Ann Jones, Bonnie Maroney, Nellie Martinis, Helen Peterson, Pearl Quilina, Ida Belle Saich, Mary Silks, and Betty Stockton.

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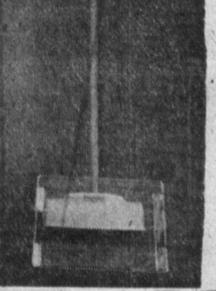
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